REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 12 has been cancelled and is replaced by new claim 15 which positively and distinctly recites all of the steps in the claimed method. In addition, the claims have been amended for clarity.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,602,669 to Chaki. The Examiner has further rejected claims 3, 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaki in view of U.S. Patent 5,774,338 to Wessling, III. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaki in view of U.S. Patent 6,900,777 to Herbert et al.

The Chaki patent discloses a digital signal transmission apparatus, digital signal transmission method, and digital signal transmitter-receiver, in which a transmitter 3 generates a modulated audio signal S2, an infrared optical emitter 4 converts the modulated audio signal S2 into an optical transmission signal S3, an infrared photodetector 5 detects the emitted optical transmission signal S3 and generates a received modulated audio signal S4, and receiver 6 receives and processes the received modulated audio signal S4.

As noted in MPEP § 2131, it is well-founded that "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a

single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California,* 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Further, "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.,* 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicant submits that Chaki neither discloses nor suggests, as claimed in claim 1, "transmission means provided between and coupled to the signal source device and the signal sink device for the transmission of signals" and "the transmission means is formed by light-guiding means optically coupled to the signal source device and the signal sink device for transmitting the optical signal from the signal source device to the signal sink device".

In particular, as noted in Chaki at col. 1, lines 23-28, "Thereby this type of audio signal transmission method requires no transmission line and makes it possible to simultaneously transmit a desired audio signal to a plurality of audio units. Therefore, the audio signal transmission method is used for a wireless headphone, a speaker system, and so on." In fact, at col. 3, lines 36-46, Chaki merely states that the optical transmission signal S3 consisting of infrared rays is generated, and that the optical transmission signal S3 is converted to a modulated audio signal S4. There is no mention in Chaki as to how the optical transmission signal S3 gets from the infrared optical emitter 4 to the infrared photodetector 5. Hence, the only assumption one can make is that

the transmission signal S3 is applied directly from the emitter 4 to the photodetector 5.

The Wessling, III patent discloses a body integral electronics packaging in which a garment, such as a poncho or vest, is fitted with pockets or compartments for receiving various electronics modules. The modules are interconnected by various electrical transmission lines which are accommodated in various channels in the garment between the pockets. In an alternate embodiment, shown in Figs. 13 and 14, the electronics modules may include laser transceivers 51 and 53 and/or infra-red transceivers 55 and 57. This is described in Wessling, III at col. 8, lines 40-64. However, conspicuously absent from this description is how the laser signals or infrared signal are transported between the modules. As such, the only assumption that can be made is that the modules are adjacent to each other.

Hence, the combination of the teachings of Wessling, III with Chaki leads one to either abandon the infrared optical transmission/reception and to use electrical transmission lines, or to house the modules of Chaki in a vest where they are adjacent to one another.

The Hebert et al. patent discloses an infrared audio/video interface for head-mounted display, in which "The photodetector is optically cemented to the lens' planar exit pupil to couple some energy into the photodetector."

However, Applicant submits that neither Chaki nor Hebert et al. disclose "transmission means provided between and coupled to

the signal source device and the signal sink device for the transmission of signals" and "the transmission means is formed by light-guiding means optically coupled to the signal source device and the signal sink device for transmitting the optical signal from the signal source device to the signal sink device", and in particular, that the light-guiding means has a light exit region or a light entry region that is planar.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 1-11 and 13-15, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by____/Edward W. Goodman/_____
Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613
Attorney
Tel.: 914-333-9611